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OPERATIONS COORDINATING BOARD
Washington 25, D. C.

May 1, 1956

MEMORANDUM OF MEETING: Working Group - Committee on Broadcasting and
Television (COBAT)

14th Meeting held 2 p.m., April 30, 1956
OCB Conference room

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS PRESENT:

USIA - Robert E. Button, Chairman
ICA - Gerald Winfield
STATE - T. H. E. Nesbitt (TPIB)
CIA - Representative
OCB - Ralph R. Busick
Marjorie Denny

1. The Minutes of the April 23rd meeting were adopted as written.

2. Discussion was held on the joint TPIB-COBAT paper submitted to the Board Assistants April 27. The State Department Representative (TPIB Chairman) advised that the State Department was now exploring other channels. *It was urged (?) that state send a policy paper directly to USIA.*

3. With reference to the priority project of a broadcasting station for Libya, the ICA Representative reported that there were no F.Y. '56 funds available; but that it could be part of the 1957 program; guidance and suggestions for a broadcasting station had been requested from the field and were now being prepared by ICA. Discussion brought out agreement on the fact that such a project must include a training program. Also, it was agreed that if the available mobile unit was used it should be on a loan basis, but if a fixed installation was utilized, this should be purchased.

4. The question was again brought up as to whether the coverage of Africa should be considered in U. S. technical planning. The Chairman suggested that the State Department should prepare papers to USIA on any area where broadcasting coverage might be helpful whether it be Africa, the Middle East, or elsewhere.

5. With reference to the proposal that OCB conduct an on-the-spot survey of Eurovision, the Staff Representative advised that COBAT's paper had not yet been sent out to the Board Assistants. The ICA Representative clarified the part his agency would play in such a project; after decision made as to extent U. S. should participate in Eurovision, ICA would then arrange for host governments to request OEEC to study the TV situation, informing them that the U. S. would consider favorably OEEC appropriations for television. (The ICA puts money into projects at the request of OEEC.)

6. The next meeting will be held Monday, May 7th at 2:00 P.M. at OCB.

Ralph R. Busick
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